

Personal God Concept Should Be Given Up, Einstein Advises

Priests Hold Too Much Power, Scientist Tells Conference

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Sept. 11.—Prof. Albert Einstein advised religious teachers yesterday to "give up the doctrine of a personal God, that is, give up that source of fear and hope which in the past placed such vast power in the hands of priests."

In a paper presented at the Conference of Science, Philosophy and Religion at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the German refugee scientist declared that "a legitimate conflict between religion and science cannot exist. Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

Qualifies Concept.

Mr. Einstein said, however, that he was required to qualify his con-

clusion with reference to the concept of God.

"During the youthful period of mankind's spiritual evolution," he wrote, "human fantasy created gods in man's image, who, by operations of their will were supposed to determine, or at any rate to influence, the phenomenal world. Man sought to alter the disposition of these gods in his own favor by means of magic and prayer. The idea of God in the religions taught at the present is a sublimation of that old conception of the gods."

Mr. Einstein asserted that nobody would deny that "the idea of the existence of an omnipotent, just and omnibenevolent personal god is able to accord man solace, help and guidance," but added that "there are decisive weaknesses attached to this idea in itself, which have been painfully felt since the beginning of history."

If God were omnipotent, Mr. Einstein argued, then "every occurrence, including every human action, every human thought and every human feeling and aspiration is also His work."

"How is it possible to think of holding men responsible for their deeds and thoughts before such an Almighty Being?" he asked. "In giving out punishment and rewards He would to a certain extent be passing judgment on Himself. How

can this be combined with the goodness and righteousness ascribed to Him?"

Personal God at Issue.

The main source of present-day conflicts between the spheres of religion and science, Mr. Einstein continued, "lies in this concept of a personal god."

"The doctrine of a personal god interfering with natural events could never be refuted, in the real sense, by science," he said, "for this doctrine can always take refuge in those domains in which scientific knowledge has not yet been able to set foot."

He added, however, that "I am persuaded such behavior on the part of representatives of religion would not only be unworthy, but also fatal. For a doctrine which is able to maintain itself not in the clear light, but only in the dark, will of necessity lose its effect on mankind."

"The further the spiritual evolution of mankind advances," Mr. Einstein concluded, "the more certain it seems to me that the path of genuine religiosity does not lie through fear of life, and the fear of death, and blind faith, but through striving after rational knowledge. In this sense I believe the priest must become a teacher if he wishes to do justice to his lofty educational mission."

Restatement of Objectives Held America's Need

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Sept. 11.—Archibald MacLeish, librarian of Congress, poet and author, said yesterday that what America needs is "a declaration as to what democracy really means in the terms of this country—we must have a restatement of the objects of the people of this land."

"We still present a curious sight," MacLeish told 250 college students at a conference of the International Student Service. "We believe in democracy. We have discovered our enemy, and by what means alone we can arm against him. We know our cause is a better cause than his, that our cause is good and his is evil. But yet singleness of purpose eludes us."

"Democracy is the one form of government which keeps the future open and permits the future to occur. But a people can lose itself if it does not from time to time find a new goal."

The Atacama desert of Chile is one of the driest areas in the world, an entire year sometimes passing without a drop of rain.

Communists Ruled Off Arkansas Ballot

By the Associated Press.

LITTLE ROCK, Sept. 11.—Secretary of State C. G. Hall yesterday barred the Communist party from the 1940 general election ballot in Arkansas.

Attorney General Jack Holt advised Mr. Hall he had the right to bar the party from the ballot if he had "conclusive" proof that the party advocates overthrow of the Government or carries on a program of treason or sedition.

Party officials left at Mr. Hall's office Monday nomination certifi-

cates for Ralph Field, candidate for Governor, and Arley Woodrow, candidate for presidential elector.

Mr. Hall said he was acting under the 1935 act and on the basis of a legislative investigation into activities of Commonwealth Co-operative Labor College near Mena, Ark., several years ago.

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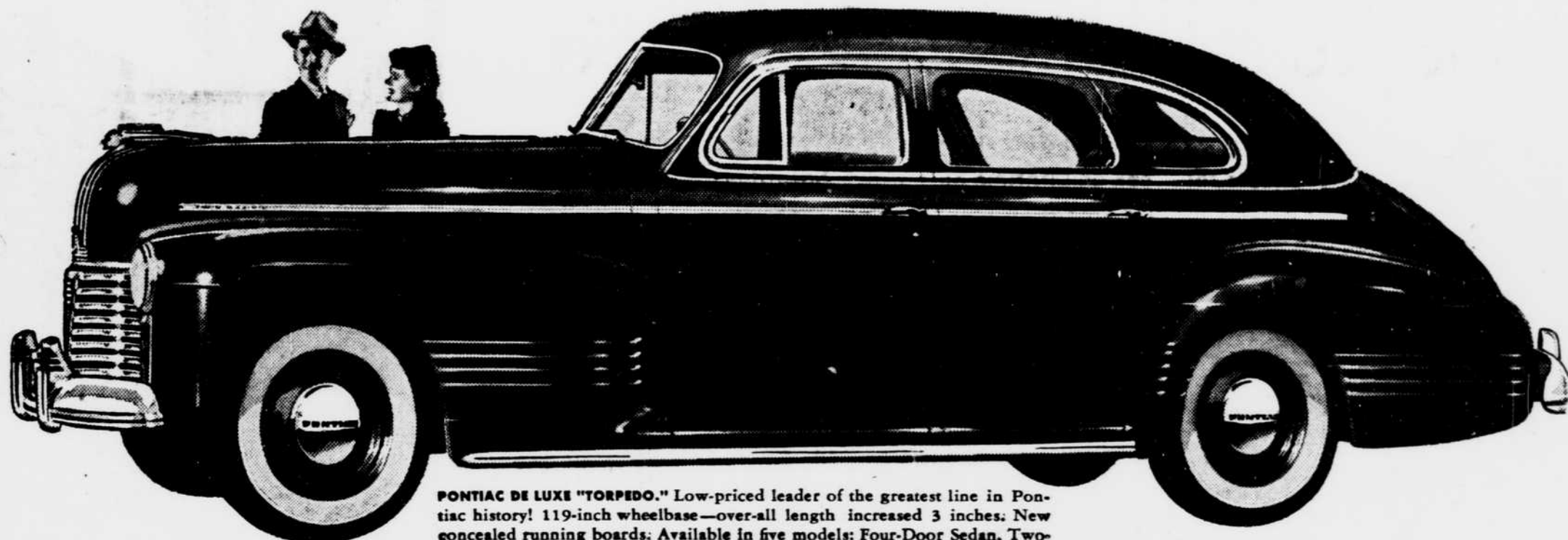
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